

**REMARKS**

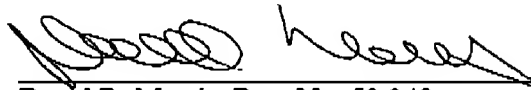
Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-21, 23-26, and 28-33 are pending at the time of the Office Action. Claims 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 28, 30, and 33 are allowed, and claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 17, 20-21, 23, 25-26, 29, and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 29 and 6-8 are objected to due to informalities, and claim 24 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 28, 30, and 33. Similarly, applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 24. Applicants would like to point out that on page 13 of the Office Action, the Examiner notes in point 12 (line 13) that "... Claims 28, 30 and 33 are allowed over prior art." In the next sentence, the Examiner notes that "Claims 10, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are necessarily objected because of their dependency on the objected base Claim 30." Since these two comments are contradictory and confusing, and the Applicants are unable to find the objection to Claim 30, it is believed that dependent claims 10, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are allowed. However, in view of a potential objection to claim 30, Applicants have proactively amended the claim to delete the term "article", which lacks antecedence. Similarly, claims 21 and 33 have been amended due to lack of antecedence.

By way of this instant amendment, Applicants have amended claim 29 to correct the noted informality. Additionally, Applicants have cancelled claim 24 and incorporated the language thereof into independent claims 1, 29, 31, and 32, which in light of the Examiner's reasons for allowance over the cited prior art, Applicants now believe are in form for allowance along with any claims depending thereon.

As noted above, it is believed that the claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. Such favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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